

*National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration
Research and Development
Programs Public Meeting*

Best Western Gateway

International Hotel 9191 Wickham, Romulus, Michigan

November 14, 2001 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Agenda



1. Introduction

- A. R&D Web Page
- B. Side Air Bag Public Meeting (IIHS)
- C. IIHS Blue Ribbon Panel On Advanced Airbags
- D. Budget

2. 2000 Annual Assessment

3. Development of Surrogate Child Restraints for Air Bag System Testing

Agenda (continued)



4. **Event Data Recorders – Update on Agency Activities**
5. **TREAD – Wear and Underinflation Issues and Data**
6. **Status of Advanced Frontal Crash Protection Research Program**
7. **Responses to Written Questions**

R&D Web Page

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

Side Airbag Public Meeting On October 25



- **NHTSA Administrator Wrote to Industry in December 1998 Expressed Concerns About Risk to Children**
- **Urged Industry to Ensure Safety of Vehicle Products**
- **Industry Established Technical Working Group in July 1999 - IIHS Chairs the Group**
- **Automobile Manufacturers and Suppliers Are Members**
- **NHTSA Is an Observer**
- **The Group Developed a Set of Test Procedures by December 1999**
- **NHTSA Evaluated the Procedures Including Certain Variations**

2 NHTSA Presentations



- **Real World Experience of Side Airbags in Crashes**
- **Evaluation of Injury Risk from Side Airbags**
- **Both Presentations are on NHTSA Website**

Special Crash Investigations



- **55 Cases Investigated**
- **Includes 12 Make/models**
- **Chest, Head and Chest/Head Combination Bags and Window Curtains Included**
 - Seat and Door Mounted Systems
 - ITS and Curtains

Conclusions from SCI



- **No Fatalities Attributed to Deployment of Side Airbags**
- **Only One Serious Injury Due to Deployment Found**
- **No Children Have Been Seriously Injured in the Cases Investigated**
- **Head Bags Were Found to Be Successful in Mitigating Head Injury**

Observations From Evaluation of Industry's Test Procedures



- **The Industry Test Procedures Able to Discriminate a Variety of Airbag Systems**
- **Side Airbags Generally Produce Low Dummy Injury Measures When Dummies Are in Position**
- **Dummy Injury Measures Exceeded the Established Threshold Levels in Some Positions in a Few Vehicles**
- **Summary Report on the Research Will Be Available by End of December**

IIHS Blue Ribbon Panel On Advanced Airbags



- **NCSA Partnership with Alliance**
 - ❖ Add 3 additional PSUs to the NASS
 - Frontal crashes involving late model vehicles with advanced or redesigned occupant protection systems
 - www.highwaysafety.org/presentations/brp



NHTSA Budget



- **Operations and Research Budget**
 - ~\$207,000,000.
 - Staff ~600

- **Grants**
 - ~\$223,000,000.

R&D Contract Budget \$ Thousands



- Nat'l Center for Statistics & Analysis
- Crashworthiness
- Vehicle Research & Test Center
- Biomechanics
- Crash Avoidance
- PNGV/Technology Transfer

